



Natural Resources Conservation Service
3381 Skyway Drive
Auburn, Alabama 36830

January 20, 2009

ALABAMA TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE 30.

This notice transmits revisions to the FOTG.

SECTION IV - CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS

INDEX

Change the date for the following Conservation Practice Standards:

- Access Control - Code 472 - 12/08
- Early Successional Habitat Development/Management - Code 647 - 11/08
- Fence - Code 382 - 12/08
- Forest Stand Improvement - Code 666 - 12/08
- Hedgerow Planting - Code 422 - 9/08
- Prescribed Burning - Code 338 - 12/08
- Prescribed Grazing - Code 528 - 12/08
- Riparian Forest Buffer - Code 391 - 12/08
- Silvopasture Establishment - Code 381 - 12/08
- Tree/Shrub Establishment - Code 612 - 12/08
- Tree/Shrub Pruning - Code 660 - 11/08
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation - Code 490 - 12/08
- Wetland Restoration - Code 657 - 12/08

DESCRIPTION OF CHANGES

Access Control - Code 472

The National Handbook of Conservation Practices, Notice 145, dated June 25, 2008, made significant changes to this standard and changed the name from "Use Exclusion" to "Access Control". The national standard was adopted as the state standard and included portions of 'Criteria Applicable to Livestock Exclusion' and included the portion dealing with cultural resources.

Early Successional Habitat Development/Management - Code 647

Definition and Criteria - Added "create and/or" manage... to both sections.

Fence - Code 382

CPS was reviewed after the release of the current national standard and found no changes needed to be made to the state standard. The date was changed to indicate the standard has been reviewed.



Forest Stand Improvement - Code 666

Purposes

First bullet added “by manipulating stand density and structure.”

Added the following bullets:

- Reduce wildfire hazard.
- Improve forest health reducing the potential of damage from pests and moisture stress.
- Achieve or maintain a desired native understory plant community for special forest products, grazing, and browsing.

Hedgerow Planting - Code 422

Definition - “Establishment of dense vegetation in a linear design **to achieve a natural resource conservation purpose.**”

Purpose - Added “To increase carbon storage in biomass and soils” and “Improvement of landscape appearance”.

Criteria *Additional Criteria for Wildlife Food, Cover, and Travel Corridors* - Added second paragraph “Minimum hedgerow width, at maturity, shall be **18 feet, with at least 4 rows of plants for species in Table 1 based on a 6 foot spacing. Minimum width, at maturity, shall be 20 feet, with at least 3 rows of plants for species in Table 1 based on a 10 foot spacing.**”

Table 1:

Changed spacing: Chickasaw plum to 6 x 6 from 3 x 4; Persimmon, Crab apple, Dogwood, Virginia pine, and Loblolly pine to 10 x 10 ft. from 6 x 6; and added Dwarf chinquapin oak to 10 x 10 ft. spacing.

Added Wax myrtle, American Beautyberry, and Hawthorne to 6 x 6 ft. spacing.

Deleted Shrub Lespedeza, Chinese Chestnut, and Sawtooth oak.

Prescribed Burning - Code 338 - No major content changes. Date changed to indicate reviewed.

Prescribed Grazing - Code 528

Adopted the national as the state standard with the following additions:

Criteria - General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes:

Added Minimum Stubble Heights table paragraphs follow explaining this procedure.

Riparian Forest Buffer - Code 391

Operation and Maintenance - Second paragraph, added “invasive species”.

Silvopasture Establishment - Code 381

Adopted the national standard in its entirety as state standard.

Tree/Shrub Establishment - Code 612

Purpose - Added bullets to purposes and added bullet “improving or restoring natural diversity”

Conditions Where Practice Applies - Adopted national version.

General Criteria - Adopted additional General Criteria from national CPS.

Added Additional Criteria for Treating Waste.

Considerations, Plans and Specifications, and Operations and Maintenance sections - modified or added text to make state CPS align with the national CPS.

Tree/Shrub Pruning - Code 660

Purpose - Improving health and vigor was added.

General Criteria - Statement added regarding burning removed vegetation.

Considerations - Energy statement added.

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation - Code 490

The name was changed from Forest Site Preparation to Tree/Shrub Site Preparation to align with the national standard.

Purpose - Deleted reference to carbon storage.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

Reworded "On all lands needing treatment to establish trees and/or shrubs.

Criteria

- Added "Slash and debris shall be removed, treated, or eliminated as appropriate. Refer to the Alabama NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Slash Treatment - Code 384."
- Added "Measures, including the use of equipment, will be implemented to control or protect against locally invasive and noxious species that may arise from site preparation activities. If pesticides are used, refer to Alabama NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Pest Management - Code 595."

Operations and Maintenance -

- Maintain erosion and control measures as necessary.
- Control locally invasive and noxious plants as necessary. If pesticides are used, refer to Alabama NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Pest Management - Code 595.
- Access by vehicles or equipment during or after site preparation shall be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction, and other site impacts. Refer to Alabama NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Use Exclusion - Code 472.

Wetland Restoration - Code 657

Criteria

Criteria Applicable to the Restoration of Hydrology

Added to first paragraph "Hydrologic alteration includes any significant decrease or increase in hydrology from normal hydrologic conditions.

Added to last paragraph "or extensive alteration by beavers.

Criteria Applicable to Removal of Excess Hydrology Due to Beavers - New section added.



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